

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1-10 (Previously cancelled)
11. (Currently amended) A fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has ~~a size ranging from about 0.02 dtex to about 5 dtex and a Tg of at least about -30°C~~ an average fiber diameter of less than 10 μ m.
12. (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber comprises from about 20% to about 99.99% by weight of the fiber of starch.
13. (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber further comprises a plasticizer.
14. (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 13 wherein the plasticizer selected from the group consisting of: sorbitol, monosaccharides, disaccharides, glycerol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol and mixtures thereof.
15. (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 13 wherein the plasticizer is present in the fiber at a level of from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the fiber.
16. (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber further comprises a cross-linking agent.
17. (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 16 wherein the cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of: polyamide-epichlorohydrin resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, glyoxylated polyacrylamide resins, melamine formaldehyde resins, polyethylenimine resins, dialdehyde starch resins and mixtures thereof.
18. (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 16 wherein the cross-linking agent is present in the fiber at a level of from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the fiber.
19. (Previously cancelled)
20. (Previously presented) A fibrous structure comprising a plurality of fibers, wherein at least one fiber is a fiber according to Claim 11.

21. (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an absorbency ranging from about $1 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$ to about $15 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$.
22. (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a total flexibility ranging from about 1.0 g/cm to about 75 g/cm.
23. (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean dry tensile strength ranging from about 10 g/cm to about 1200 g/cm.
24. (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 400 g/cm.
25. (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 24 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 200 g/cm.
26. (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean decayed wet tensile strength ranging from about 0 g/cm to about 20 g/cm.
27. (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about 10 g/m² to about 450 g/m².
28. (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an apparent density ranging from about 0.04 g/cm³ to about 0.12 g/cm³.
29. (Currently amended) A paper product comprising a fibrous structure, wherein the fibrous structure comprises a fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has ~~a size ranging from about 0.02 dtex to about 5 dtex and a Tg of at least about -30°C~~ an average fiber diameter of less than 10 µm.
30. (Currently amended) A fibrous structure comprising a fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has ~~a size ranging from about 0.02 dtex to about 5 dtex and a Tg of at least about -30°C~~ an average fiber diameter of less than 10 µm and wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about 10 g/m² to about 450 g/m².
31. (New) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber is a melt blown fiber.
32. (New) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber is a spunbond fiber.